

My First Free Summer

by Julia Alvarez

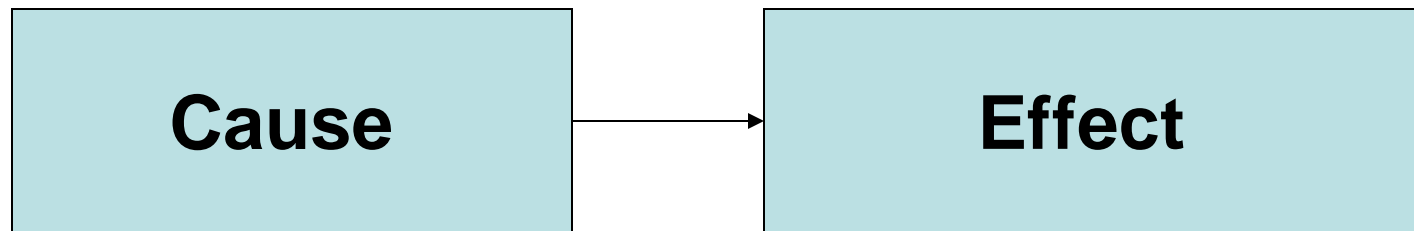
McDougal Littell - 8th grade
pages 112 - 117
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Genre

- **Memoir**
 - Writer describes **important events** in his or her life.

Reading Skill

Cause and Effect



First event

What happens next

Background Knowledge



Background Knowledge



- From 1930 to 1961, Dominican Republic was ruled by a **brutal dictator**, Rafael Trujillo.
- Under his rule, masses of people were killed for even minor crimes.

contradict *verb*

If you **contradict** someone, you say or suggest that what they have just said is wrong.

contradict *example*

Jose: *“That was a great movie.”*

Samuel **contradicts** Jose:

“I disagree. The plot was slow and boring.”

contradict word relatives

contradicted verb

contradiction noun

contradictory adjective



The witnesses in the trial **contradicted** each others stories. One witness said the man was guilty and the other witness said the man was not guilty. This **contradiction** was confusing to the jury. **Contradictory** stories are common in trials.

interrogate *verb*

If someone, especially a police officer, **interrogates** someone, they question them thoroughly for a long time in order to get some information from them.

interrogate *example*



The policeman **interrogates** this man by asking him questions.

interrogate

Checking understanding



When the policeman **interrogates** this suspect about the stolen car, what questions might the policeman ask?

Begin by saying:

When the policeman **interrogates** the suspect about the stolen car, he might ask _____.

interrogate



interrogate verb

interrogating verb

interrogation noun

Rafael Trujillo ordered his men to **interrogate** citizens to learn about potential enemies. When **interrogating** citizens, Trujillo's men asked many questions and **interrogation** often lasted for hours.

summon verb

If you **summon** someone, you order them to come to you.

Synonyms: send for, call for, ask, invite

summon *examples*

Trujillo's men **summoned** people to be interrogated.

The principal **summoned** four eighth graders to the office to receive special achievement awards.

unravel *verb*

If you **unravel** a mystery, it gradually becomes clearer until you can work out the answer to it.

Synonyms: solve, resolve, clear up

unravel *examples*

If you read a mystery, the mystery would **unravel** as you were given more and more information.

Your confusion in math class will **unravel** as you learn more and more.

Check - up

1. contradict
2. interrogate
3. summon
4. unravel

- to solve a mystery
- to ask many questions over a long period of time
- to disagree with someone's opinion
- to ask people to come to a place

Comprehension page 112

1. *(Targeted Passage - Lines 1 - 17)*

Where does Alvarez live?

What kind of school does she attend?

What does she have trouble learning?

Who rules the Dominican Republic?

How is Alvarez's experience different from that of her friends?

Comprehension page 112

- A. What effect does Mr. Alvarez's political involvement have on Julia's life?

Begin by saying:

Mr. Alvarez's political involvement effected Julia's life in a number of ways.

First, _____

Next, _____

Finally, _____

Comprehension page 114

2. *(Targeted Passage - Lines 41 - 56)*

How does the author change in fifth grade?

What does she expect will happen in the summer?

Why have Americans been advised to return home?

Comprehension page 114

- B. What does freedom mean to Alvarez at this point in her life?

Begin by saying:

At this point in Alvarez's life, freedom means _____.

Comprehension page 114

C. What's causing Alvarez to have a boring summer?

Cause—————→ Effect

Begin by saying:

Alvarez is having a boring summer
because _____.

Comprehension page 115

3. *(Targeted Passage - Lines 41 - 56)*

How long does the family have to wait at the airport?

What happens to some of the passengers in the terminal?

What do the soldiers do? What effect do their actions have?

Comprehension page 115

- D. Why is Alvarez's family leaving for the United States on such short notice?

Cause _____ Effect



Begin by saying:

The Alvarez family is leaving for the United States on short notice because

_____.

Comprehension page115

- E. What changes have occurred in Alvarez's thinking about the Dominican Republic and the United States?

Begin by saying:

A number of changes occurred in Alvarez's thinking about the Dominican Republic and the United States. She now thinks _____

Comprehension *after reading*

Why was Alvarez allowed to attend the American School?

What happened at the airport as the Alvarez family waited for the plane?

Literary Analysis

What do you think the title of the memoir means?

The title of the memoir, My First Free Summer, means a number of things. First, _____. Next, _____.